

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 (Cancelled).

II. REPLY TO REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 6, 7 AND 8 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,763,209 (“209”) to Higeta et al. (“Higeta”). In reply, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 without prejudice to prosecuting each claim in a subsequent patent application filed at a later date.

III. REMARKS RE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice to prosecuting each claim in a subsequent patent application filed at a later date. The cancellation of claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 was made only to simplify and expedite prosecution and to facilitate issuance of allowed claims 3, 4, 5 and 9.